A SNAPSHOT:

YUKON GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE DURING 2006 & 2007

TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Yukon Government

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Environment Yukon
Environmental Programs Branch, V-8
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
Email: climatechange@gov.yk.ca
www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS REPORT

This report provides a list of programs and initiatives that were taken by the Yukon Government during 2006 and 2007. In some cases actions were 'one-time' initiatives and in others they are ongoing. In all cases, action outcomes were and continue to be complementary to the goals of the *Yukon Government Climate Change Strategy* and the *Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan*. Collectively, the actions identified in this report and the new initiatives presented in the Action Plan provide a comprehensive overview of the Yukon Government response and approach to adaptation and mitigation of climate change related effects.

For ease of reference and comparison, the tables presented on the following pages are organized to parallel the structure of the *Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan*, particularly following the four principal goals and eight sub-goals of the plan. Each action is briefly described, with the responsible or lead department identified and the current status of the action ('ongoing' or 'one-time') summarized. Additional information regarding actions outlined in this report may be obtained by contacting the Climate Change Coordinator or the responsible or lead department.

Participating Departments as Listed on Current Actions Summary Tables

DEPARTMENT	AS LISTED
Executive Council Office	ECO
Energy, Mines and Resources	EMR
Highways and Public Works	HPW
Environment Yukon	Environment
Tourism and Culture	Tourism and Culture
Health and Social Services	HSS
Yukon Housing Corporation	YHC
Yukon Development Corporation	YDC
Community Services	Community Services

GOAL 1: ENHANCE OUR UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

1.1 - DOCUMENT HOW CLIMATE IS CHANGING IN YUKON

Temperature Monitoring

Compile and disseminate basic temperature data and trends through annual reporting.

Responsible Department ECO **Status** Ongoing

1.2 - ENHANCE AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Executive Support for Public Awareness and Education Initiatives

The Executive Council Office's Science Advisor collaborates with funding organizations, aboriginal organizations, education organizations — northern, national and international — and institutes to encourage the engagement of Yukoners, attract expertise to the Yukon and assist in linking Yukoners and the Yukon government with the science community.

Responsible Department ECO **Status** Ongoing

Public Presentations and Contributed to Scientific Journals

Provided nationally and internationally, related to the effects of climate change on heritage resources in Yukon – specifically melting Alpine Ice Patches in southwest Yukon and the erosion of Herschel Island.

Responsible Department Tourism and Culture **Status** One-time

The Conservation Education Program

Continue to disseminate climate-change messages to schools.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

The Alternative Energy Demonstration Project

Provided financial support to refurbish the grid-connected solar and wind hybrid installation at Yukon College for use as a public display to highlight the benefits of these technologies.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Yukon Housing Corporation's Energy Programs

Yukon Housing Corporation will continue to provide information and advice to the public and industry on issues related to residential energy efficiency.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Managing Fuel Use for Efficiency

Energy, Mines and Resources provided a fuel-management course in Whitehorse, in 2006, which highlighted the benefits of more efficient use of fuel in fleet vehicles.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Oil Burning Technology and Control Systems

EMR and YHC have provided courses in oil-burning technology and in control systems.

Responsible Department EMR / YHC **Status** Ongoing

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

Four different LEED course offerings were provided in February 2007. Clientele consisted of relevant Yukon Government employees, private-sector design and architecture firms, as well as engineering and technology firms

Responsible Department EMR & HPW **Status** One-time

YHC Building Construction and Energy Efficiency Training

Yukon Housing Corporation will continue to provide or arrange courses on building construction, energy efficiency, R-2000, and GreenHome heating system and ventilation design, alternate energy and sustainability for homeowners, consultants, builders, government staff and First Nations.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

YHC Technology Promotion Initiatives

As opportunities arise, Yukon Housing Corporation will participate in planning, design and technology workshops, as well as in design and planning charettes, demonstration projects and technology-transfer forums.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Farm Products and Practices

Agriculture Branch will continue to:

- Educate on how locally grown foods can substitute food imported from outside.
- Educate about saving fuels and how healthy soils store more carbon.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

GOAL 2: IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2.1 - EXPAND OUR RESEARCH CAPABILITY AND KNOWLEDGE ON NORTHERN CLIMATE CHANGE

Development and Socio-economic Impact Assessments

Through its participation in development and socio-economic impact assessments, the Yukon Government will encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of best practices intended to maximize benefits from development and minimize environmental effects, including those associated with climate change. Specific actions will include:

- Developed and implement the Development Assessment Review Tracker
- Monitor research in all aspects of development assessment and provide information to *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* practitioners.
- Ensure Yukon Government corporate participation in *Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act* implementation
- Develop and provide guidance on development-impact mitigations for *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* practitioners.

Responsible Department ECO **Status** Ongoing

Human Health and Well-being

Health and Social Services will continue to participate in socio-economic effects assessments related to Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act and major development projects connected to climate change.

Responsible Department H&SS **Status** Ongoing

Highways Construction Materials Testing

Transportation Engineering Branch is experimenting with materials and surfaces that could be used to reduce permafrost degradation of roadways.

Responsible Department H&PW **Status** One-time

Housing Adaptation Strategies

Work in concert with the Energy Solutions Centre on strategies that improve housing quality, sustainability and community well-being.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Model Forest Special Project Area

Forestry Branch supported the Model Forest Special Project Area (led by University of BC researchers) which explored forest renewal-adaptation options for forests in southwest Yukon affected by the spruce beetle.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Adaptive Management Frameworks for Forest Management

The Forest Management Branch is supporting ongoing efforts to establish adaptive management frameworks to support implementation of the Strategic Forest Management Plans for the Champagne and Aishihik and the Teslin Tlingit traditional territories. Adaptive management is seen as a critical response to climate change.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Forestry Research – Adaptation

The Forest Science Officer was:

- A contributing author to the Northern Chapter of National Assessment on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, as well as 'Sustainable Forest Management Network Synthesis Rpt. 'National Assessment of Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and the Forest Sector'; and
- Conducted a survey, as part of a contribution to the National Assessment of forest-practitioner perceptions on climate adaptation.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Low-water Irrigation Technologies for Agriculture

The Agriculture Branch will continue work on new, low-water irrigation technologies as well as on crop development and research, both of which may be important for adaptation to climate change.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Near-Zero Energy Healthy Housing research and demonstration project.

The goal of near zero is to implement a range of measures that will ultimately lead to housing that has a near-zero net consumption of energy on an annual basis for heating and electricity.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Building Efficiency and Performance Enhancement Project

Continue to update planning/programming to improve the efficiency and performance of existing YHC housing stock.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre

Leading the development of the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre and support business-development planning.

Responsible Department EcDev **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre

Support the sharing of information on the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre.

Responsible Department ECO **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Research Centre of Excellence

Continue to support the development of a Yukon Research Centre of Excellence.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Energy Efficiency Market Transformation Initiative
Continue to offer programs and services to encourage market transformation to greater energy efficiency, which would include lighting (compact fluorescent and LED), heating (oil-burning appliance technology; heating, ventilation and air-conditioning controls) and appliances (Energy Star appliance rebate).
Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

2.2 - IDENTIFY IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND TAKE ACTION TO ADAPT

Permafrost Outreach Program
Yukon Geological Survey is involved in setting up a permafrost health-outreach program with the University of Alaska, involving a number of schools around Yukon.
Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time start-up and ongoing

Supported graduate work and general university research in permafrost studies
Current research projects involve documentation of permafrost conditions at several sites in Yukon. Data from these studies will be used to model permafrost conditions in the southern half of Yukon.
Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Permafrost-related terrain hazards monitoring and characterization study
Yukon Geological Survey is monitoring and characterizing terrain hazards associated with permafrost degradation (landslide activity and permafrost subsidence) in south and central Yukon
Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Alaska Highway Permafrost study
Yukon Geological Survey, in partnership with Highways and Public Works, is developing a geotechnical borehole database to document permafrost conditions along the Alaska Highway
Responsible Department EMR & HPW **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Wetlands Mapping and Classification Project
Yukon Wetlands Technical Committee is developing a Yukon-wide inventory, mapping and classification of wetland ecosystems by multi-agency technical experts from Environment Yukon, Canadian Wildlife Services, Ducks Unlimited and Yukon College.
Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Landscape change and mammal species projects
Pilot projects on the impact of landscape change on various mammal species in Yukon.
Responsible Department Environment **Status** One-time

Ecosystem and Biodiversity Monitoring Projects

Participation in numerous monitoring programs with Climate Change components including:

- Wolf Creek Research Basin
- Porcupine Caribou Herd Body Condition Assessment
- The Canadian Tundra & Taiga Experiment (CANTTEX) site (Herschel and Wolf Creek).
- Kluane Ecosystem Monitoring Project
- Vegetation Change in Northern Yukon (North Slope and on Herschel Island).
- Roadside Waterfowl Surveys
- Mammalian Biodiversity Monitoring
- Collecting local observations for integration into planning.
- Kluane Alpine Ecosystem Project and St. Elias Climate Change Project (University of Alberta).
- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op
- International Polar Year Project (Old Crow Basis – monitoring moose and fish, as well as permafrost and vegetation changes).

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Climate Change Research and Monitoring in Yukon Parks

Ongoing support for multi-disciplinary climate change research and monitoring (e.g. wildlife, vegetation, permafrost, and erosion) in Yukon parks and protected areas by Yukon Environment and non-government researches.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Biophysical (ecosystem) classification and mapping initiative

Mapping to provide a baseline for monitoring ecological change.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** One-time

Rare and Endangered Species Data Collection

Nature Serve Yukon is collating information on rare or threatened species and ecosystems, and collecting information to monitor ongoing change.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

The Boreal Forest Monitoring Project

Monitoring boreal ecosystems across the Yukon, including incorporating traditional and local knowledge to determine the baseline for future change.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Wetlands Technical Committee

Yukon-wide inventory, mapping, and classification of wetland ecosystems by multi-agency (Environment Yukon, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Yukon College) technical experts. Continued support for compilation of baseline data for monitoring environmental change.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Yukon Invasive Species Working Group

Surveys in 2007 provided some of the first standardized data for tracking invasive plant species along roadsides. This baseline data will enable future assessments of the spread of invasive species associated with climate change.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Strategic Forest Management Plans – Initial Status Reports

As part of implementing Strategic Forest Management Plans, the Forest Management Branch is coordinating the development of Initial Status Reports for the Champaign Aishihik and the Teslin Tlingit traditional territories, including climate-change baseline indicators.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Forest Management in a Changing Climate

Forest Management Branch supported the University of British Columbia's and the Northern Climate Exchange project to build an environmental information base for southwest Yukon

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time

Heritage Resources Protection

Tourism and Culture continue to implement measures to monitor and protect heritage and historic sites from climate change impacts.

Responsible Department Tourism and Culture **Status** Ongoing

Scientist and Explorers Act

Tourism and Culture administers the permitting of scientific research in the Yukon such as permafrost studies.

Responsible Department Tourism and Culture **Status** Ongoing

Climate Change and Human Health

Monitor population health trends to observe and mitigate changes that may result from climate change, such as increase in insect-borne disease transmission.

Responsible Department HSS **Status** Ongoing

2.3 - COMMUNITY ADAPTATION

Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation

Continue to network with Natural Resources Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the National Research Council, YG departments, First Nation governments and communities in adapting to climate change.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Support for Adaptation Projects

With support from the Northern Strategy Trust, Environment Yukon is supporting two projects on adaptation:

1. Northern Climate ExChange Community Adaptation Project
2. Water Stewardship and Climate Change impacts on the Yukon River

Responsible Department Environment **Status** One-time

GOAL 3:

REDUCE OUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

3.1 - IDENTIFY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN YUKON

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting and Carbon budgeting
Ongoing, informal relationship with Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada to report on greenhouse-gas emissions, as well as carbon budgeting.
Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Energuide Reporting
Collect, store and use home-evaluation data, from the EnerGuide for Houses program, to report on greenhouse-gas emissions and to direct programming modifications.
Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

3.2 - DEVELOP SECTOR SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

YHC Program Review
Yukon Housing Corporation will continue to routinely review delivery of programs to enhance their applicability to climate-change issues.
Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Mayo-Dawson Transmission Line
The Mayo-Dawson line continues to displace 10,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.
Responsible Department YDC **Status** Ongoing

Carmacks to Stewart Crossing Transmission Line Project
Initial planning work has been completed on the Carmacks to Stewart line, which will make distribution of oversupply easier and will enable expansion of the hydro grid, including providing hydroelectricity to new mines and to Pelly Crossing.
Responsible Department YDC **Status** Ongoing

Secondary Power Sales (surplus hydro)
Yukon Development Corporation will continue to sell surplus hydro to off-set use of heating fuels.
Responsible Department YDC **Status** Ongoing

Total Cost Ownership and Green Procurement Initiative
Expanded Total Cost of Ownership criteria and incorporate Green Procurement criteria in YG tenders for goods and services.
Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Energy Conservation for Existing Buildings Initiative
HPW is in the process of hiring a Manager to lead an energy-conservation program for existing buildings to meet or exceed proposed by the Green Building Council standards.
Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Building Operations and Standards Research
Negotiations are ongoing between the Building Owners and Managers Association and the Canada Green Building Council into building operations standards. Research will begin once the outcome is known and the staff has been hired.
Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Public Buildings Energy Tracking Database
Continue to maintain an internal database on buildings operated by the Property Management Agency (PMA) and to support the Public Buildings Energy Tracking Database in partnership with the Energy Solutions Centre and other departments and agencies. The Energy Tracking Database will provide information for making decisions regarding energy-related upgrades, retrofits and/or capital replacements of building stock.
Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Green Action Committee
Established a Green Action Committee to initiate "green" initiatives such as a comprehensive composting and recycling system for the department.
Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Athletes Village Residences for Canada Winter Games
The Athletes Residences were built to the Yukon Housing Corporation's Green Home Design Standard for energy efficiency.
Responsible Department Community Services **Status** One-time

YHC Energy-Efficiency Programs for the public including:
- Zero-per-cent financing for upgrades under Home Repair Program.
- Zero-per-cent interest rate for alternate energy-system programs.
- Zero-per-cent interest for energy-efficiency items for Rental Rehabilitations program.
- GreenHome incentive for existing homes,
- GreenHome incentive for new dwellings — grant of up to $5,250.
- Home-energy evaluations with a grant of up to $400 for EcoEnergy Program and EnerGuide for New Houses.

Other YHC Energy-Efficiency Initiatives including:

- Continue and reinforce Yukon Housing Corporation policy of building only highly energy-efficient buildings
- Continue and reinforce Yukon Housing Corporation policy of procuring low-emission goods and services for its housing stock.
- Continue to review performance of existing YHC housing stock.
- Continue to update planning/programming to improve the efficiency and performance of existing YHC housing stock.
- Work with the Federal Government to ensure the Yukon has energy-rating tools for use in the Yukon.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Tombstone Visitor Centre

This centre will be the first Yukon Government project to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Standards — Certified standard. Planning is underway and construction will begin during summer, 2008.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** One-time (summer 2008)

Building to the GreenHome Standard

Continue to construct all Yukon Housing Corporation single-detached and multi-residential dwellings and buildings to an R-2000, or GreenHome standard or better.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Corporate Document Destruction Program

Public Service Commission developed a document destruction program in partnership with Raven Recycling to manage the disposal of all Yukon Government documents so that materials are diverted from landfill and recycled.

Responsible Department PSC **Status** Ongoing

Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative

Providing financial support to recycling depots and other environmental non-governmental organizations to reduce waste generation and encourage recycling through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Vehicle Research and Testing

Transportation division is pursuing alternative vehicles such as hybrid units and is currently evaluating alternative vehicles for other areas within the fleet, as well as monitoring idling rates on heavy vehicles.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Updated the Fleet Vehicle Agency Rate Structure

This update was to enhance cost incentives for the use of more efficient vehicle types.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Reconfigure the Fleet Vehicle Agency fleet

Continue to work to reduce the proportion of larger less efficient vehicles when needs may be met with smaller, more efficient vehicles.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

In-house Driver Awareness Initiative

Continue to work to change drivers' habits and practices to improve driving efficiency and reduce vehicle idling.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Improve Vehicle Utilization

Continue to work to reduce environmental impacts through improved vehicle utilization and allocation throughout the Fleet Vehicle Agency.

Responsible Department HPW **Status** Ongoing

Energy Efficient Vehicles

Yukon Housing Corporation will continue to support the use of energy-efficient vehicles for staff use.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Smart Car Pilot

Addition of Smart Car to the department vehicle fleet as a pilot.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** One-time

Standards and guidelines for energy-efficient construction for all new residential buildings

Continue to work with the City of Whitehorse and YG Building Safety to develop Standards and guidelines for energy-efficient construction for all new residential buildings.

Responsible Department YHC / CS **Status** Ongoing

Standards and guidelines for installation and maintenance of oil-fired appliances

Continue to explore the development of standards and guidelines for installation and maintenance of oil-fired appliances with the Energy Solutions Centre; Energy, Mines and Resources; City of Whitehorse and with the YG Building Safety.

Responsible Department YHC / CS **Status** Ongoing

Ongoing consideration of emerging building standards

Review and provide feedback on national standards such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, CSA B-139 installation code for oil-burning equipment, CSA F-326 residential mechanical ventilation systems and R-2000 Builders' Manual, as well as monitoring research and advancement in building science and products.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Energy Pilot Projects

Pilot a variety of energy-efficient and renewable-energy technologies in the Yukon including: solar, geothermal and biomass projects.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Energy Efficiency Assistance program

Continue to organize projects to assist individuals in increasing energy efficiency.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Alternative Fuel Pilot Project

Continue to pilot alternative-fuel manufacturing and use in the Yukon through contribution agreements with individuals and in partnership with the Agriculture Branch, for example the use of Canola to create biodiesel.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Research in the Agricultural Sector

Continue to support development of local agriculture and research programs as they relate to offsetting carbon and/or climate change.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Optimize the use of surplus electricity

Continue to investigate methods to optimize the use of clean surplus electricity with the goals of decreasing greenhouse gases and emissions (through displacement of diesel fuel) and reducing costs for ratepayers and consumers.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** Ongoing

Third Turbine at Aishihik

With support from Canada's Trust for Clean Air and Climate Change, $5 million was allocated to installing a third hydro turbine at the Aishihik hydro electric plant.

Responsible Department YDC **Status** Ongoing

GOAL 4:

ESTABLISH YUKON AS A NORTHERN LEADER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Participation on National and International climate change forums

Intergovernmental Relations Branch continues to represent Yukon at the senior policy level in international and circumpolar affairs and ensure that Yukon interests are presented. During 2006 and 2007 this included:

- A working group (with the three territories) on climate change that developed a pan-northern Strategic Action Plan to guide the territories and the federal government in dialogue on climate change adaptation.
- Yukon participation in International Polar Year activities.
- The Science Advisor chairs the National Committee for the International Polar Year and ensures that Yukon issues are presented in national and international research initiatives, including the International Polar Year, the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP) and the International Arctic Science Committee.
- Participation in circumpolar activities with Canada and with the Northern Forum on Arctic Council climate-change projects such as the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and related initiatives.
- The Science Advisor participates in appropriate reviews, analysis and interpretation of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and contributes to the Canadian Climate Assessment Report and to the United Nations Intergovernmental panel on the Climate Change 4th Assessment review and interpretation.

Responsible Department ECO **Status** Ongoing

Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Assessment

Environment Yukon participated in the collection of information for the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Assessment.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Human Health and Well-being – Climate Change Related Issues

Complement national initiatives with Yukon-specific information on climate-change, health-related issues such as the emergence of new diseases and emergency preparedness for the changing nature of natural disasters.

Responsible Department HSS **Status** Ongoing

Canadian Electrical Association Energy Programs

Yukon Energy Corporation will continue to participate in the Environmental Commitment and Responsibility Program sponsored by the Canadian Electricity Association.

Responsible Department YDC **Status** Ongoing

Northern Housing Technology Networking

Formally confer with and strengthen networking with the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Alaska, as well as reasonable participation in and support of technology-transfer opportunities.

Responsible Department YHC **Status** Ongoing

Northern Climate ExChange

Annually provides $75,000 to the Northern Climate ExChange to support core operations.

Responsible Department Environment **Status** Ongoing

Northern Climate ExChange

The Northern Climate Exchange was provided $50,000 in 2006/2007.

Responsible Department EMR **Status** One-time